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DE RUEHC 316 31829
ZNR URGU ZH
FM STATE WASHDC
TO RUESDO/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 3415
INFO RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 3312
BT
UNCLAS STATE 153165

ACTION COPY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, UY, U.S.

SUBJECT: WILSON FERRERIA TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

WILSON FERRERIA TESTIFIED JUNE 17 BEFORE THE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE. FOLLOWING ARE EXERPTS FROM HIS PREPARED STATEMENT AND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

QUOTE. ... THE SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENT WHICH SHOOK URUGUAY UNTIL 1972 WAS COMPLETELY DISMANTLED. IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS NOT A SINGLE DEATH, INJURY OR KIDNAPPING HAS OCCURRED AS A RESULT OF GUERILLA ACTIVITIES. THE GUERILLAS HAVE NOT TAKEN PART IN A SINGLE ACTION, NOR HAS THE GOVERNMENT ACCUSED THEM OF CARRYING OUT ANY PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES. THE MEMBERS OF THE TUPAMARO MOVEMENT ARE EITHER JAILED OR DEAD. THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO KIDNAP, TORTURE AND KILL TODAY IN URUGUAY ARE THE GOVERNMENT. IT IS DIFFICULT TO MAKE AN ACCURATE ESTIMATE AS TO HOW MANY CITIZENS ARE AT PRESENT IN JAILS, ACCUSED OF OFFENCES AGAINST THE SECURITY OF THE STATE, OR OF "ATTEMPTING TO UNDERMINE THE MORALE OF THE ARMED FORCES", OR SIMPLY NOT ACCUSED OF ANYTHING AT ALL. THIS IS DUE TO ABSENCE OF INFORMATION ON ARRESTS, BUT THEIR NUMBERS CAN BE SAFELY CALCULATED AT BETWEEN 5,000 AND 6,000. ... I MENTIONED EARLIER THAT INITIALLY THIS ENTIRE SYSTEM WAS DEVISED TO PERSECUTE THE SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENTS. EVEN SO, IT LACKED BOTH A MORAL AND EVEN A POLITICAL BASIS PRECISELY BECAUSE IT CONSISTS IN DESTROYING THAT WHICH IT PURPORTS TO DEFEND. FOR IMMEDIATELY, UNDER THE IMPULSE OF ITS OWN DYNAMICS, TERROR WAS AIMED AT THE WHOLE POPULATION. WHEN THERE WERE NO MORE "TUPAMAROS" LEFT TO BE TORTURED, IT WAS FOCUSSED ON VERY SMALL SECTORS OF THE "MAOIST" LEFT AND FROM THERE I WAS EXTENDED TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY, WHOSE LEADERS AND MILITANTS SUFFERED SAVAGE PERSECUTION: IT THEN TURNED AGAINST ANY CITIZEN WHO HAD EVER HAD ANY LINK WITH WORKERS SINDICATES OR TRADE UNIONS AND EVENTUALLY AGAINST THE ENTIRE POPULATION, ANYONE, "JUST IN CASE". ... YET BEFORE I FINISH I FEEL I HAVE THE DUTY OF REFERRING TO THE UROER A MONTH AGO IN BUENOS AIRES. ARGENTINA OF TWO BRILLIANT PARLIAMEN-

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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TARIANS, GENUINE TRUSTWORTHY REPRESENTATIVES OF MY
 PEOPLE: ZELMAR MICHELINI AND HECTOR GUTIERREZ RUIZ.
 THE EFFORTS OF MANY MEN AND WOMEN OF GOOD WILL THROUGHOUT
 THE WORLD WERE NOT ENOUGH TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THESE
 GREAT CITIZENS, MY FRIENDS WHO WAITED FOR THREE DAYS
 AFTER THEIR KIDNAPPING FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF THEIR
 DEATH SENTENCES DICTATED BY THE MURDEROUS URUGUAYAN
 GOVERNMENT AND EXECUTED IN BUENOS AIRES BY MURDERERS
 ASSOCIATED WITH THE ARGENTINIAN GOVERNMENT. I REQUEST
 YOUR AUTHORIZATION TO INCLUDE AMONG THE DOCUMENTS FOR THE
 RECORDS A COPY OF A LETTER I SENT TO THE PRESIDENT OF
 ARGENTINA BEFORE TAKING ASYLUM IN THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN
 BUENOS AIRES; IT IS A BRIEF AND OBJECTIVE ACCOUNT OF THE
 EVENTS WHICH DEMONSTRATES IN ITS TRAGIC SIMPLICITY WHERE
 THE CULPRITS ARE AND HOW THE MURDERERS DID NOT EVEN
 ATTEMPT TO HIDE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY. ... THE URUGUAYAN
 REPRESSIVE APPARATUS WAS BUILT UP WITH THE ASSISTANCE
 OF ABUNDANT MATERIAL AND TECHNICAL AID FROM THE UNITED
 STATES. URUGUAYAN MILITARY PERSONNEL HAD AND STILL HAVE
 PROLONGED PERIODS OF INSTRUCTION IN SEVERAL PLACES IN
 YOUR COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY IN THE CANAL ZONE IN PANAMA.
 ... URUGUAY HAS THE HIGHEST EXTERNAL DEBT PER CAPITA IN
 THE WORLD. ... TODAY THE FOREIGN DEBT REPRESENTS -
 IF WE INCLUDE BOTH STATE OBLIGATIONS AND THOSE CONTRACTED
 DIRECTLY BY BANKS AND IMPORT FIRMS - MORE THAN 1.5
 BILLION DOLLARS. ... URUGUAY HAS THE HIGHEST PROPOR-
 TIONAL BUDGET IN THE WORLD FOR MAINTAINING ITS SECURITY
 SERVICES: 45 OF THE AUTHORIZED BUDGET, AND IN PRACTICE
 60 OF THE TOTAL EXPENDITURES. THE PERCENTAGE OF THE
 GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT THAT IT REPRESENTS IS THREE TIMES
 HIGHER THAN IN CHILE. THE BUDGETARY DEFICIT VARIES
 BETWEEN A THIRD AND A FOURTH OF THE TOTAL FIGURE, AND IT
 IS COVERED IN THE FORM OF EXTERNAL DEBT. IN OTHER WORDS,
 WHATEVER EACH DOLLAR MAY BE EARMARKED FOR, EACH UNIT OF
 FOREIGN CURRENCY INJECTED IN THE URUGUAYAN BUDGETARY
 FOREIGN CURRENCY INJECTED IN THE URUGUAYAN BUDGETARY
 PAYMENT OF THE ARMY AND THE POLICE. OR, SIMPLY, OF THE
 POLICE, BECAUSE, UNFORTUNATELY THE ARMED FORCES IN
 URUGUAY ACT AS A POLICE FORCE. ... THE UNITED STATES
 EMBASSY IN MONTEVIDEO GIVES DIRECTION, COUNSEL AND
 OPINION ABOUT THE COURSE OF URUGUAYAN POLITICS, AND GOES
 SO FAR AS GIVING ITS SEAL OF APPROVAL TO SPECIFIC
 INSTITUTIONAL FORMULAS WHICH WOULD BRING ABOUT THE ABOLI-
 TION OF THE RIGHT OF THE URUGUAY PEOPLE TO A SELF-
 ELECTED GOVERNMENT. THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN
 MONTEVIDEO ACTS AS A PUBLIC RELATIONS AGENT FOR THE URU-
 GUAYAN GOVERNMENT IN THAT IT PUBLICIZES THROUGHOUT THE
 WORLD FALSE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITUATION OF THE
 COUNTRY, WHERE CONSISTENT ALLEGATIONS AND EVIDENT FACTS
 ARE DENIED, IT SUPPORTS AND CLAIMS THAT SUBVERSION CAN-
 NOT BE CURBED WITHOUT THE SUPPRESSION OF LIBERTIES AND IT
 GIVES CURRENCY TO THE LIE THAT IN URUGUAY "ONLY A HANDFUL
 OF COMMUNISTS" HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. ... UNQUOTE.

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83 CONGRESSMEN FRASER, KOCH (VISITOR), HARRINGTON AND ROSENTHAL WERE PRESENT BUT LATTER TWO WERE PRESENT ONLY PART OF THE TIME AND ASKED NO QUESTIONS. CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S QUESTIONS CONCERNED POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF GOA AND GOU IN MURDERS OF MICHELINI AND GUTIERREZ RUIZ, FERRERIA'S OPINION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S VIEWS ON URUGUAYAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AS EXPRESSED IN OCTOBER 22, 1975 LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT TO FRASER, FERREIRA'S OPINION ABOUT USG POLICY TOWARD URUGUAY. CONGRESSMAN KOCH ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING FERREIRA'S OPINION OF JUNE 11 LETTER TO KOCH FROM AMBASSADOR RYAN AND OF POSSIBLE U.S. ASYLUM PROGRAM FOR URUGUAYAN REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA. AT END OF HEARING, CONGRESSMAN FRASER STATED HIS INTENTION TO INVITE DEPARTMENT WITNESSES TO TESTIFY ON URUGUAYAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. EARLIEST HEARINGS COULD BE SCHEDULED WOULD BE END OF JULY. TEXT OF FERRERIA'S STATEMENTS POUCHED JUNE 18. ROBINSON

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